GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4449
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
ANEMIA AMONG CHILDREN
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 67% of the Delhi`s Children below the age of three years are suffering from anemia;

(b) if so, whether the survey has revealed that such conditions also prevail in other States in the country, which have lower prevalence of anemia amongst children as compared to Delhi;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, alongwith the names of the States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness among the people and remove this ailment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (d) As per the National Family HealthSurvey-2 (1998-1999), 69% of children under three years of age in Delhi, were found to have anemia. The percentages of anemic children under three years of age in other States is annexed.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Ironand Folic acid tablets are distributed to children in the age group 1-5 years for prevention and treatment of anemia.

Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding upto the age of 4-6 months and appropriate complementary feeding is being done to improve the nutritional status o f children. Consumption of iron rich foods is being promoted as a part of the information, education and communication effort.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4449 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.8.2000

Prevalence of Anemia in Children

State	Percent of Children age under 3 years with Any Anaemia (#)
Delhi	69.0
Haryana	83.9
Himachal Pradesh	69.9
Jammu and Kashmir	71.1
Punjab	80.0
Rajasthan	82.3
Madhya Pradesh	75.0
Uttar Pradesh	73.9
Bihar	81.3
Orissa	72.3
West Bengal	78.3
Arunachal Pradesh	84.2
Assam	63.2
Manipur	44.1
Meghalaya	64.1
Mizoram	53.9
Nagaland	41.4
Sikkim	76.5
Goa	53.4
Gujarat	74.5
Maharashtra	76.0
Andhra Pradesh	72.3
Karnataka	70.6
Kerala	43.9
Tamil Nadu	69.0

Anaemia was measured using portable equipment (the HemoCue) to assess hemoglobin levels.

Source: National Family Health Survey-2, (1998-99)